

MIKE RUCKLIDGE'S HISTORY OF THE PERFIN SOCIETY

By

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Although I had read that it was in preparation, it was a pleasant surprise to find a copy of Mike Rucklidge's "A Brief History of the Perfin Society" accompanying the August 1998 issue of the Bulletin (No.295). Reading it brought back many happy memories of my active years in the Society, from 1971-84.

Late in 1983, the Company for which I worked was taken over by its greatest competitor and I was advised that once the factory at which I worked had been closed down, my services would no longer be required. That dire prediction did not come to pass and I am in fact still employed by the Group that took me over but now in a senior position. The effect on me at the time however was quite marked, for example, my children are a year or two younger than they would otherwise have been. Owing to my expected straightened circumstances, I decided to curtail my philatelic activities drastically and accordingly, resigned the majority of my philatelic society memberships and at the same time gave up my offices with the Perfin Society. My purchases of stamps also ceased since those were seriously recessionary times and I could expect to be out of work for a considerable period of time. Although the worst did not come to pass, I sought alternative employment for nearly two years before resigning myself to my fate with my current employer. I never returned to collecting stamps.

In reality therefore, I haven't collected perfins for 15 years or so, but I have kept my Perfin Society membership up for reasons of nostalgia and the fact that I enjoy reading Rosemary's Bulletins.

The stresses and strains imposed by the ever-increasing pace of business these days need to be alleviated on a regular basis and philately is still my preferred therapy. My philatelic pursuit nowadays is the bibliography and indexing of philatelic literature. It has the great advantage that I can leave it when I am busy and return to it as time and circumstances allow. In addition, as opposed to stamps, I need not consider new issues or completeness. Nonetheless, the hunt for the elusive and rare publication (literature is much rarer than stamps, a fact that is not generally reflected in the price) and the mental challenge of compiling data for publication (as opposed to exhibition) remain.

As a collector of philatelic literature, which is really all about people - what they did, what they owned and what they published - I always grieve when a society's published history, however brief, has no index to the persons who shaped that society. Accordingly, I have produced an index of people mentioned by Mike in his history.

The Missing Librarian

Virtually all of my files relating to perfins and the Society went with the Society's Library when I passed it on to Maurice Hankin. Accordingly, I cannot give an exact date in 1971 when I took over the Library. However, I remember clearly Ron Bowman, who virtually ran the Society single-handed at that time, telling me about the Librarian I took over from and whose name now eludes me. It would appear that when Frank Summers gave up the position of Librarian in 1970, another member volunteered and was given the post.

At that time, Ron edited the Bulletin and recorded therein the change of Librarian. Within a short time however, he received a letter from the new Librarian pointing out that Ron had got his name wrong. Needless to say, Ron published a correction in the very next issue; unfortunately got the name wrong again. Thus, publicly slighted twice in rapid succession, the new Librarian resigned forthwith from both the Library and the Society and yours truly took up the vacant post. One can only assume that Mike, not surprisingly, missed this fleeting incumbent when digging out the Librarian's names.

Index to Persons Mentioned in the History

Where a person has been mentioned more than once on a page, the number of times is recorded in brackets after the page number. I presume that much of Mike's information was gleaned from the Society's Bulletin since many names are shortened or incomplete. Wherever my files allowed, I have augmented or completed names. However, information that I have inserted, which was not in the original, is shown in square brackets, just in case I have made a mistake.

Bartleson, A.S.	5
Bein, Charles	4
Birch, Brian [John]	11, 12
Blyth, J.G.	5
Bowman, Ron J.	5(2), 9(2), 10, 11, 12, 14
Carr, Chris J.T.	5, 10, 11
Clarkson, H.	5
Davidson, D.	5
Day, Peter	11,15
Donner, John	11,12
Fades, E.	5
Edwards, Dr.T.A.	See Llewellyn-Edwards
Fosbery, J.	5
Francombe, Ted	11
Gault, Roy	10,14(4)
Hamill, I[an]	14
Hankin, Maurice	12
Harp, Maurice	12
Higgs, Ron	11
Hill, Dave [T.]	9(2), 11
Hoggett, R.A.	5
Holden, ?	12
Husband, Richard	9
Jennings, Charles	5(2), 6, 8
[Llewellyn-]Edwards, Dr. Tony [A.]	10(2), 11, 14(3)
Longbottom, [E.] Geoff	11, 12
Lucas, Mrs. Betty [C]	5,14
Luft, John	11,12
McKee, Robert	13
Millet, P.J.	5

Muggleton, D[erek]	5
Nelson, John [S.]	5, 8, 9, 11
Newman, Mrs. J.	5
Parkhill, K[evin]	14
Rendall. Dr.	4
Rucklidge, [J.] Michael	8, 9(2), 11
Scott, David [N.]	11
Skinner, Harry	11
Sloper	4
Smith, F.H.B.	5
Smith, Mrs [Margaret] Rosemary	10
Steere, S[tephen]	14
Summers, Frank	12
Terry, Vic	10
Thornton, Mary	14
Tilles, Harvey	13(2)
Tomkins, Basil C.	5, 10, 13, 14
Tully, Frank	10
Vallency, Hugh	4
Van Lint, [Victor J.]	13
Welch. M.O.	5
West, W.	5, 11
Young, K[eith] Rymer	5.8

Footnote from your Editor

I am always pleased to hear from Brian. Since he resigned as Librarian in 1984, (after completely reorganising and cataloguing the Library so that it was very easy to pin point exactly the reference article you required) I have had infrequent letters from him. These have always added something to the current research of the time; proof of his lasting interest in perfins.

As a new-comer to the Society in 1971, with only a fleeting interest in perfins, it was due to Brian's help in finding me the articles I wanted from the Library (and suggesting other allied articles) and his enthusiasm for the subject and encouraging me in my quest for knowledge on the subject, that has brought me to my present love for the subject. If it were not for Brian my bank balance would have been more but my pleasure less.